

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising a synthetic sulfated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of sulfated cellulose derivatives and sulfated polyanionic polysaccharides, said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide being present in an amount sufficient to bind matrix metalloproteinases.
2. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose and sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.
3. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.
4. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sulfated alginates, sulfated pectins and sulfated hyaluronic acid.
5. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is a sulfated alginate.
6. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide comprises an average of at least 0.1 sulfate groups for each saccharide residue of the polysaccharide.
7. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 6, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide comprises an average of at least 1 sulfate group for each saccharide residue of the polysaccharide.
8. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide has an average molecular weight in the range 25,000-250,000.

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9. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 17, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of a woven, non-woven, sponge or knitted fabric.
10. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 17, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of a solid complex with collagen.
11. (Withdrawn) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is soluble in water to an extent of at least 10 g/l at 25°C.
12. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a sulfated polysaccharide as in claim 1.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of medical conditions mediated by a matrix metalloproteinase wherein the treatment comprises applying to a wound the composition of claim 1.
15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the medical condition is a chronic wound.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently amended) A wound dressing comprising a synthetic sulfated polysaccharide, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sulfated hydroxyethyl cellulose, sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose and sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose, said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide being present in an amount sufficient to bind matrix metalloproteinases; and wherein ~~at least one sulfate group~~ from about 3 to about 4 sulfate groups on each saccharide residue of said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide ~~was~~ were converted from ~~[[a]]~~ hydroxyl groups.
18. (Canceled) .

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19. (Previously presented) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 17, wherein said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide is sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose.

20. (Previously presented) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 17, wherein said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide is sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)